

Remarks

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-20 are allowed.

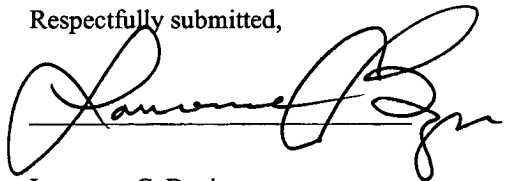
In the Office Action mailed on September 30, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,328,336. The Examiner states that "With respect to claims 21-26, Takahashi et al. discloses an inflator for a vehicle occupant restraint system comprising: an inflator body (2); a first elongate chamber (a chamber inside the diffuser 15) formed in said inflator body; a second elongate chamber formed in said inflator body; a first bore (see attached figure 1 below) overlapping radii of said first and second elongate chamber, providing for fluid communication therebetween; a plurality of gas exit orifices (4) in fluid communication with said second elongate chamber for supplying an inflation gas to an inflatable restraint device; wherein the inflator positioned in an airbag module/occupant protection system" (office action, page 2, paragraph 2.)

However, the feature identified as a "first bore" by the Examiner does not provide for fluid communication between first and second chambers, as set forth in the claim. The "first bore" identified by the Examiner does not provide fluid communication between any two chambers formed in the gas generating device disclosed in Takahashi et al. '336. Thus, all of the elements recited in claim 21 are not disclosed in Takahashi et al. '336, and the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Finally, Applicant submits formal drawings in connection with this paper.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to independent claim 24 serve to clarify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited references. In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections of record have been overcome. The Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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